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may have since rescued it from its dishonoured position. It is no uncommon thing to see the stones of some venerable abbey or old feudal castle, where no pious hand is stretched forth to stay the desecration, employed by some boorish farmer to build a byre or a pigstye.

I trust that the labours of the Academy may have the effect of establishing a more creditable and satisfactory state of things for the future.

XLVIII.—ON THE RIVERS OF IRELAND, WITH THE DERIVATIONS OF THEIR NAMES. By OWEN CONNELLAN, LL. D., Professor of Celtic Languages in Queen's College, Cork.

[Read February 8, 1869.]

THE names of the oldest rivers in this country have been collected from the Books of Lecan and Ballymote, from O'Clery's copy of the Book of Conquests, and from the Annals of Ireland.

There are only four rivers described in the Book of *Dinnseanchus*, and the derivations of their names are legendary; but the writers of that curious work have given a second derivation of two of them from natural causes. These four rivers are the Barrow, Boyne, Shannon, and the Raven River in the west of Kerry. The legend of the Shannon is given in full, literally translated; and it may be remarked, that there are some words in the original Irish which are not to be found in our printed Irish Dictionaries. The names of lakes, however, in the *Dinnseanchus*, are numerous.

The writers of the Book of Conquests endeavour to determine the different periods at which these old rivers were first discovered, or began to flow over the land; and they ascribe many of these circumstances to the times of the earliest colonies that came into Ireland. The greater part of the Book of Conquests is considered by some to be the oldest written composition in the Irish language. It is the History of Ireland from the remotest times to the 12th century of the Christian era, and there are several very old copies of it still extant.

As in all other countries in this world, these names are all significant. The most of them are very apparent and simple in their meanings. We have the *Abainn mór* and *Abainn beag*, or the great and small rivers. There is also the *glarín*, or small stream; and they descend in the scale to the *piobán*—that is, a narrow, purling rivulet, nearly covered over with the herbage growing on its brink, and the name signifies the *water-pipe*.

We also have the Black and White Rivers, the blue, the brown, the yellow—in fact, all the hues in the rainbow are represented by the colour of their waters.

Several of them are named from their rapid currents, and their distinctive noise, such as the roaring, loud-sounding, echoing, moaning, murmuring, babbling, and harmonious-sounding rivers.

The trees of the woods and forests through which many of them flowed are specified; such as the Alder, Ash, Elm, Hazel, Oak, Willow; and it would appear that the Yew was to be found in all parts of Ireland as an indigenous tree. It may be remarked that silver and copper are also indicated.

The English names of these rivers are first given, alphabetically arranged, and their Irish names in brackets.

A.

ARGLIN [Aṛḡiobluinḡ].—*Arglin River*, a tributary of the Black-water, into which it falls below Kilworth, in the county of Cork. Mr. Long informs me that the name in Irish, as written in the Book of Lismore, is Aṛḡiobluinḡ, which is compounded of aṛḡiob, silver, and luinḡ to leap, and would therefore signify the leaping, silvery river, from the clearness of its water.

ARIGIDEEN [Aṛiḡibín].—The *River Arigideen* discharges itself into the bay of Courtmacsherry, in the county of Cork. Seward states that the name signifies the silver river or stream. The name is formed of aṛḡiob, silver, and ín, a diminutive particle, and therefore would signify the small silvery stream. Mr. Long is of opinion that it got this name from the white or *silvery* trout with which the river abounds, and which run in large shoals in its waters.

ASROE [Eapṛ Ruaid].—*Asroe*, at Ballyshannon, on the forementioned river [i. e. the River Erne], is derived as follows in O'Clery's Book of Conquests, p. 3:—Ro baibeab Aed ruad ceabur in Eapṛ Ruaid, ocup ip cétpad combad uaða po ḡab Eapṛ Ruaid ainmniugab, ocup Sith Oeoha op up an eapṛa, "Aedh the red-haired was formerly drowned in Eass Ruaidh, and it is an opinion that it was from him Eass Ruaidh received a nomination, and the Sith [i. e. the mound or tumulus] of Aedh is over the margin of the cataract."

The Irish people call it eap ruad, or the red cataract, and in using the genitive they say bṛabáin an eapṛa ruad, the salmon of the red cataract; and I was informed by a veritable authority, that when the sun goes to the west, and shines on the cataract, the water assumes a reddish colour, which seems to arise from a red weed growing on the rock inside the waterfall.

AVONMORE [ábainn mór].—The *Avonmore River*, in Irish, Ábainn mór, or the great river, now called the River Blackwater, in the county of Cork, falls into the sea at Youghal. There are several rivers in various parts of Ireland called ábainn mór. The name Youghal, in Irish eoḡaill, is derived from eo, the Yew, and caill, a wood, meaning the Yew-tree wood.

Ptolemy calls the Avonmore *Dabrona*, or *Dubrona*, which undoubtedly was taken from the original Celtic name of this river, and it implied the *black flowing water*, from dub, black, and bṛaon, flowing water, the name by which the river is still known.

AWBEG [Ábainn Beag].—*Awbeg*, according to Seward, is a river

in the county of Cork, which is derived from *abainn*, a river, and *beaḡ*, small.

AWIN BUY [*Abainn Buiḡ*].—*Awin Buy*, as given by Seward, is a river in the barony of Kinalea, county of Cork. In Irish it is written *abainn*, a river, and *buiḡ*, yellow = the Yellow-coloured River.

There is another river of this name, which rises in the parish of Kilmacteig, barony of Leiney, and county of Sligo. It flows by the town of Coolaney, and uniting with the Avonmore from Temple House Lake, and the Union Wood River near Collooney, they fall into the great strand of *Eothuile*, over the cataract called *eap bapa*, from which the town of Ballysadare derives its name of *baile eapa bapa*, or the town of the oak cataract, from two large oak trees, one on each side of the waterfall, according to tradition.

AWIN GORM [*Abainn Ġorm*].—The *Awin Gorm* is given by Seward as in the barony of Leiney, county of Sligo. The correct spelling of it in Irish is *Abainn Ġorm*, which every one who speaks the language understands to signify the *Blue River*.

AWIN URE [*Abainn Iubair*].—*Awin Ure* is the name of a river in the barony of Roscommon, county of Roscommon. The name is derived from *abainn*, a river, and *iubair*, the yew tree = the Yew River.

B.

BANDON [*bannḡan*].—The River Bandon rises near Dunmanway, and falls into the harbour of Kinsale, in the county of Cork, flowing a distance of about twenty-four miles. In the Annals the Irish name is written *bannḡan*; (but in the original MS. it is given *bañḡan* (the horizontal stroke being a mistake). The name may be derived from *ban*, clear, and *abainn*, river, which would correspond with the clear and transparent water of the River Bandon, from which the town of Bandon takes its name. It may also be derived from *bán*, white, and *án*, water.

BANN [*banna*].—The *River Bann*, in Irish *banna*, is one of the very old rivers found in Ireland by Partholan, as stated in the Book of Conquests, by O'Clery, p. 15, and in Lecan, p. 273. It rises in the county Down, passes through Lough Neagh, from which it escapes at Toome Bridge; flows between the counties of Down and Antrim, and falls into the sea below Coleraine. On the map of that part of Ireland Lough Neagh is represented surrounded with beds of chalk, and the River Bann passing through the chalky bed of the lake, the name may be derived from *bán*, pale or white, and *abainn*, river—the *White River*. The word *banna* also means a boundary, and was that between two districts, as stated in the Book of Conquests.

BARROW [*beapba*].—The *River Barrow*, according to Seward, flows by the Queen's County, and county of Kildare, through the county of Carlow; is joined by the Nore before it arrives at New Ross, in the county of Wexford, and falls into the sea at Waterford Haven.

The Irish name is *beapba*, as written in the Book of Conquests, and in the Annals; but in the Book of Dinnseanchus, in the Book of Ballymote, fol. 192, b. a., the name is written *beapba*, without the latter *b* being aspirated or pointed; and the second derivation given of it in that work is as follows:—*beapba* .i. *beap* no *bip* *ocur* *ba* .i. *balb* .i. *uirce* *balb*, *Bearba*, i. e. *bear*, or *bir* (i. e. water), and *ba*, i. e. dumb—namely, “*dumb water*,” which means the silent-flowing river, and is very applicable to the deep and sluggish Barrow.

BOYNE [*boinn*].—The *River Boyne*, so minutely described by Sir William Wilde in his work entitled “The Beauties of the Boyne,” rises in the county of Kildare, and discharges itself into the Irish Sea. In the Book of *Dinnseanchus*, originally compiled, it is said, in the 7th century, the name of the river is accounted for as being that of a woman; but there is also a second derivation given in it, which is as follows:—No *ica* *bo* *ann* *inerriocta* *ocur* *finn-abann* *pliab* *guaepe* *ocur* *bia* *compaz* *mole* *ip* *ann* *boann*. Or *Bo* is the name of the stream, and *Finn-abann* (or the White River) of *Sliabh Guaire* (a mountain in the county Cavan), and from their uniting together is the name *Boann* derived. But perhaps the true derivation is from *bó*, a cow, and *abann*, a river, contracted into *boann*, and signifying the *Cow River*, from the large number of cows grazing on the rich lands along the banks of the Boyne. There is a very old legend about the Boyne in our Irish MSS. It is to the effect that a Druid in that locality had a *bó finn*, or white cow, which was stolen from him, &c., and that from her the river got its name, i. e. by contracting *bó finn* into *boinn*.

BROSNACH [*brognacha*].—In the Book of Conquests, and in the Annals, it is stated that in the reign of Eremon the nine *brognacha* burst forth, and began to flow. Only two of these rivers are now traceable. One of them flows through the King’s County, and falls into the Shannon, between the King’s County and the county of Tipperary. The name signifies the *Brushwood Rivers*. Mr. Long informs me that there is a river bearing this name in the county of Kerry, which falls into the River Feale; and the land through which it flows being for the most part mountainous, he is of opinion that no other but stunted trees or brushwood would naturally grow there.

BUNANADAN [*fiobán*].—The small River *Fiodán* gives name to the fair town of Bunanadan, in the barony of Leiney, county of Sligo. The word *fiobán* means a pipe, and *bun an fiobán*, the Irish name of the town, signifies the mouth of the rivulet representing a water-pipe.

BUNDORAN [*bun-dobardán*].—*Bundoran*, a watering-place in the barony of Tirhugh, in the county of Donegal, is derived from *bun*, the mouth of a river, and *dobardán* compounded of *dobar*, water, and *án*, a diminutive particle, and thus signifying the mouth of the small river, or *Small Water*.

BURACH.—The *River Burach* is a mountain stream in the parish of Skreen, county of Sligo, which discharges itself into a small creek of the sea to the east of Aughros Head. There are no trout in it, because in summer it is dried up, and in winter the floods rush down its channel suddenly, like a wave. In Irish it is called *abainn na buparige*, which signifies the river of sudden *swelling* or flood.

BUSH [*buair*].—The *River Bush*, in the barony of Dunluce, county of Antrim. According to the Book of Conquests by O'Clery, and in the Book of Leacan, it flowed between the ancient territories of Dal-Araide and Dal-Riada, and was one of those discovered by Partholan on his arrival in this country, which would go to show that it has been considered to be a very old river. In Irish it is written *buap*, Gen. *buairpe*, Dat. *buair*, and the name may signify the Rapid-flowing River, the word *buabap*, victory or triumph, being the modern form of it.

C.

CAMOWEN [*Cam abainn*].—*Camowen River*, in the county of Tyrone, according to Seward. The name *Camowen* is compounded of *cam*, crooked, and *abainn*, a river, and signifies the Winding River. There is a small trout river near Lough Gur, and not far from Brough, in the county of Limerick, called the *Camóg*, compounded of *cam*, crooked, and *óg*, a diminutive particle, and therefore it signifies the small winding river.

CLADDY [*Claoðac*].—The *River Claodach*, in the county of Cork, falls into the Blackwater on the south side, near the railway viaduct, above the town of Mallow. It is written, Nom. *Claoðac*, Gen. *Claoðacige*, Dat. *Claoðacig*, and is derived from the word *claoðac*, subduing, conquering, overpowering; and the name, therefore, signifies the rapid-flowing river, that overpowers every obstacle in its way, and is thus described in the fore-mentioned poem :—[See Roughty River] :

Cpáinn ip cloða ba pcollaó aḡ an ḡClaoðuirḡ,

Trees and stones torn in pieces by the Claodach.

I am told there is another river of this name that falls into the River Lee.

CLADY [*Cladairḡ*].—The *River Clady*, in the district of Gweedore, on the estate of Lord George Hill, in the county of Donegal, issues out of a chain of three lakes, four miles long, and, flowing deeply by the celebrated Gweedore Hotel, falls into the *ḡaet bobaip*, or the creek of Dobhar, from which the district is called *Gweedore*. It is stated that this Dobhar was a chief who lived on one of the islands on the coast of Donegal. The River Clady flows a distance of about four miles from the lakes to *Bunbeg* (the small mouth of the river), over several cascades, and in winter its current is so forcible and overwhelming, that, like its namesake in the county of Cork, everything is torn in pieces by the torrent of the *Clady River*. By the people the two rivers are pronounced Cladagh, and Clady, in both localities.

COIMBE [Coimbe].—In the Book of Conquests mention is made of the three Coimbe. The name Coimbe may signify the accompanying rivers, but it does not appear that they have been identified by our topographers.

CORCAIR.—The *River Carcair* rises in the parish of Doneraile, in the county of Cork, and falls into the abainn beag, or small river, a tributary of the Shannon. The word capcaip means a prison; and as this stream sinks into a cavity in a limestone rock, and rises again at some distance in its course, the name signifies the *Imprisoned River*.

COW RIVER [Abainn da loilgec].—The river called Abainn da loilgec, or the River of the two Milch Cows, rises in the parish of Killeenaduma, and falls into Lough Cutra, near the town of Gort, in the county of Galway. See Annals, A. D. 1598.

CRONACH.—*Cronach River*, according to Seward, is situate in the barony of Athlone, county of Roscommon. The name is derived from cpón, copper, or brown colour, and signifies the coppery, or brownish coloured river.

D.

DEE [Dia].—The *River Dee*, which, according to Seward, is in the barony of Ardee, county of Louth. In an Irish work, entitled *Uáin bó Cuailgne*, it is stated that a Connaught champion named Peapóia was slain in single combat by the celebrated warrior Cuiculain, at a ford on this river, about the beginning of the Christian Era; and from this Peapóia the ford was called *Át-pipóia*, or the ford of *Firdia*, which in after times was changed to *Atherdee*; and hence the origin of the name of this river, i. e. by pronouncing or changing óia, in pipóia, into *Dee*. Its more ancient name was *Níe* according to the Annals, the eruption of which happened in A. M. 4169. The word níe means a battle, and therefore the name signifies the *Battle River*.

DEEL [Doail].—The *Rivers Deel*. There is one of them that rises in Lough Deel, in the barony of Raphoe, county of Donegal, and falls into the Foyle, near Lifford. Another River Deel, in the county of Limerick, falls into the Shannon, below Askeaton. In Irish the name is written doail, which in the Gen. is doaile, as uirge na doaile, the water of the Deel. The word means a *leech*, and therefore they signify the *Leech Rivers*.

DERG [Deapc].—The *River Derg* has its source in Lough Derg, in the barony of Tirhugh, county of Donegal, and unites with the Mourne River. In Irish the name is written deapc, i. e. red, and the name therefore signifies the River of the reddish-coloured water. See a curious account of Lough Derg, in a paper on Fermanagh, in my edition of the Annals of the Four Masters.

DODDER [Doctair].—The *River Dodder*, which flows by *Botharna-Bruighne*, Rathfarnham, and Miltown, falls into the River Liffey at Ringsend, near Dublin. The name in Irish is doctair, which simply means the *River*.

DRUS [Ὀροβαοῖρ].—The *River Drus*, or Droos, falls into the Bay of Donegal. The Irish name, as written in the Book of Conquests, is Ὀροβαοῖρ, which makes Ὀροβαοῖρε in the Gen., as bun Ὀροβαοῖρε, the name by which the mouth of this river has been called. The name signifies the *Muddy River*. It is called *Drobaicus* in the Book of Armagh, and was blessed by St. Patrick, on which account it abounds in fish.

DUFF [Ἰούβ].—The *River Duff*, in the barony of Carbury, county of Sligo, falls into the Bay of Donegal. The name in Irish is Ἰούβ, black, signifying the Black River. It makes Ἰούβε in the Genitive, as bun Ἰούβε, which is the name given to the mouth of this river. It is called *Niger* in the Book of Armagh, and is the boundary between Sligo and Donegal.

DUR.—The *Dur*, a small river which falls into an inlet of the sea on the coast of Kerry, is called by Ptolemy Ostia flumen *Dur*; and the name or word δῦρ, simply means the *water*, i. e. the River.

E.

EASKEY [Ἰαρκαῖ].—The River Easkey, in the barony of Tireragh, and county of Sligo, issues out of Lough Easkey and falls into the sea below the town of Easkey, to which it gives its name. It is an excellent trout and salmon river, and in Irish is called Ἀβανν na Ἰαρκαῖ, which means the fishful river, derived from ἰαρκ, a fish.

It is stated by the fishermen of that country, that although the salmon swim up to within a few perches of the lake, they never enter it, although there is nothing to hinder them. And the reason they give for this is, that St. Patrick, on his return from Tirawley into Tireragh, and while stepping over the narrow neck of the river at this place, a salmon jumped up and tripped him, and he enjoined that no salmon should ever come up so far again.

ERNE [Σαμδοῖρ].—The *River Erne* issues out of Lough Erne, and flows over the waterfall at Ballyshannon, and into the Bay of Donegal. In O'Clery's Book of Conquests, p. 15, the Irish original name of this river is Σαμδοῖρ, as Σαμδοῖρ ποτ ἀπὸ Ἐρρ Ρυαδ, Samaoir on which is Ess Ruadh, and it gives this as one of the nine rivers discovered by Partholan. In the copy of the same work in the Book of Leacan, fol. 273, the name is written Σαμῑρ, and in that of the Book of Ballymote Samair; and they all derive it from the name of an island below the cataract, on which Partholan had his residence; and the island, it states, got its name from that of a lapdog belonging to Partholan's wife, which Partholan killed with a slap of his hand in a fit of anger, &c.

The name, however, may be derived from πεαμαῖρ or παμαῖρ, as written in the Book of Ballymote, which means the trefoil, white clover, *Trifolium repens*; and thus the name would signify the river with the trefoil or clover growing in abundance on its banks = the *Seamróg* or *Clover River*.

The River Erne takes its name from Lough Erne, which, it is stated in the Book of Conquests, got the name from an ancient tribe called the *Ēarna*, or Erneans, who were drowned there by the eruption of the lake.

F.

FARNEY [*Fearn*].—*Farney Bridge River*, near Cashel, in the county of Tipperary. This river derived its name from the word *fearn*, i. e. the Alder tree.

FAUGHAN [*Fačan*].—The Faughan River, in the barony of Tyrkeeran, in the county of Derry. This name is derived from *fačan*, which means the coltsfoot, i. e. *Tusillago farfara*, which grows on the banks of sandy rivers, such as the River Dodder, on the banks of which the great coltsfoot grows abundantly.

FEALE [*Féile*].—The *River Feale*, according to the Book of Conquests, issues out of *Loč Uigðeach*, or the Lake of Lughaidh, son of Ith, now called Corrane Lough, in the barony of Iveragh, county of Kerry, and falls into the estuary of the Shannon. The Irish name is *Abainn Feile*, or the River of *Fíal*, daughter of Milidh, and wife of *Ugair*, son of Ith, who died while bathing in the river, and from her the river was named. The word *fíal* means bountiful, and the river is remarkable for its abundance of excellent trout.

FERGUS.—The *River Fergus*, in the barony of Islands, in the county of Clare. *Feargus* is a man's name, and is one of the oldest in Irish history. It has been derived from *fear*, a man, and *gus*, strength.

FINGLAS [*Finnġlar*].—The *Finglas River*, in the neighbourhood of Dublin, the name of which in Irish is *Finnġlar*, compounded of *finn*, clear, and *ġlar*, which signifies a small river.

FINN [*Fionn*].—The three *Finns*, it is stated, began to flow in the reign of *Írial Fáth*, son of Eremon. They are supposed to be the present River Finn, with two of its tributaries, in the county of Donegal. The name is written *Fionn* in the original Irish, and means the clear-watered river. The River Finn rises in *Loč Fionn*, i. e. the white or transparent lake, from which the river takes its name, and unites with the Mourne at Lifford Bridge, called in Irish *Óróiceab na Fíne*, or the bridge of the Finn River.

FLESK [*Flearc*].—In the reign of Fiacha Labhrainne, A. M. 3751, the following three rivers first began to flow—viz., the Flesk, Maine, and Lubhran. The *River Flesk*, in Irish, *Flearc*, Gen. *Fleirce*, as *Abainn na fleirce*, the river of the Flesk. According to Seward, there are two rivers of this name in the county of Kerry; one of them flows into the River Mang, the other into the Lake of Killarney. The word means a *rod*, *moisture*, and the name may signify the river of the rods, or the inundating river.

FUBNA.—In the reign of *Eithpíal*, grandson of Heremon, the eruption of these three *black rivers* happened, namely: *Fubna*,

TOPANN, and **CALLANN**.—Lecan, f. 289. It is stated at f. 290, b. a., of the same, that **Maḡ Pubna**, in Airgialla, was one of the plains cleared of wood by Conmael, grandson of Eber. In a note in the *Annals*, the **Pubna** is supposed to be the *Una River*, in Tyrone. There is no word in our printed dictionaries that explains this name, but it signifies the moaning or murmuring river. The **Topann** signifies the noisy river, but the topographers have not made out its locality—except it be the *Touro River*, near Youghal. The **Callann** is the *River Callan*, in the county of Armagh. The word means loud talk, noise, or calling, and, perhaps, the name signifies the *echoing river*.

G.

GLEOIR.—The **Ḡleoip** is the Irish name of a river which rises in the parish of Kilglass, in the county of Sligo, and falls into the Bay of Killala. The word **ḡleoipac** is still a living word in the same country, and means a continued harmonious sound; and, accordingly, the name signifies the harmonious-sounding river.

I.

INNY [**Einne**].—The *River Inny* flows into Lough Ree, in the county of Westmeath. The Irish name is **Einne**, and, according to the *Book of Conquests*, its eruption happened in the time of Heremon. Its original name was **Ḡlaip beapamain**, as stated in the *Annals*, and it derived its second name from **Einne**, the wife of **Concubap Mac Neapa**, King of Ulster, in the first century. The word signifies a *kernel*, figuratively an endearing name for a lady, meaning “as pure as the kernel of a nut.”

L.

LACKAH [**Leacac**].—The *Lackah River*, in the barony of Kilmacrenan, county Donegal. In Irish it would be written **leacac**, flaggy, and thus it signifies the *flaggy river*.

LAGAN [**Laḡán**].—The *Lagan River*, in the county Down, rises in the **Lagananny Mountain**, a spur of the Mourne Mountains, passes through the town of Dromore, and divides the counties of Down and Antrim between Lisburn and Belfast, where it falls into Belfast Lough. The name is derived from the word **laḡán**, a *shallow valley* or hollow plain, through which the river flows. There are several low districts which bear this name in various parts of Ireland—such as the *Lagan* of Tireragh, and the *Lagan* of Tyrrawley, in the counties of Sligo and Mayo.

LAUNE [**Leamain**].—The *River Laune*, near Killarney, in the county of Kerry. In Irish it is written **leamain**, and signifies the Elm tree River. The word given by O'Reilly in his Dictionary is **leamain**, the Elm tree, which in the Genitive makes **leamáin**; and it is evident that the name of the river is governed by the word **abainn**, a river, which is understood. It is stated in the *Annals* that the

eruption of this river happened in the reign of Siorna Saeghlach, A. M. 4169.

LABRANN [Labpánn].—The River Labpánn, in the Gen. Labpáinne, from which King Fiacha got the cognomen of Labpáinne, is supposed to be the Cashen River, in the county Kerry. It signifies the babbling, echoing, or noisy river, derived from Labair, to talk, and Abáinn, a river.

LEA [Liat].—The *Lea River*, in the county of Kerry, falls into Tralee Bay. “Being supplied by several mountain streams, it is pretty considerable in time of great floods.”—Seward. The name may be derived from lia, a flood, and may signify the inundating river; or, from liat, grey, which, in the time of floods, would mean the greyish-coloured river.

LEANAN [Lenáinn].—The *Leanan River* rises out of a small lough, called Garton, in the parish of Gartan, in the barony of Kilmacrenan, county of Donegal, and, after taking a circuitous course, flows by Ballyare House, the pretty seat of Lord George Hill, and falls into Lough Swilly at the town of Ramelton. The Irish name is Ucnánn, as written in the Annals of the Four Masters, A. D. 1497, which may be derived from Ucn, a marsh, and Abáinn, a river, and therefore would signify the *marshy river*. The brownish colour of its water would indicate that it flows through bogs or marshes. The name of the Bittern, in Irish, is buimeán-léana, which literally means the trumpeter of the marsh.

I have been favoured by an esteemed friend with another derivation of the name. There is an old tradition among the people of that country, that when St. Columba was a boy he was playing one day on the bank of Lough Gartan; and having come to the end of the lake, he said to it, *Lean mé, follow me*, and forthwith a stream flowed out of the lough, and followed him some distance; and hence the origin of the name *Leanán*, which in this sense would signify the *Follower*. It shows that the old people believed that the parents of the saint lived near Lough Gartan.

LEE [Laoi].—The *River Lee* issues from Guagane Barra, and flows through the city of Cork. It is another of those very old rivers found by Parthalon on his arrival in this country. In O’Clery’s Book of Conquests it is called Laoi hí Mumáin, Laoi in Munster; but, in the Book of Leacan, 273, b. a., the name is written Læe. Like that of the Liffey, I believe its meaning is lost. Ptolemy calls it *Luvius*—whatever that means—probably intended for Fluvius. The nearest word in our dictionaries to the name is laog, a calf; and, according to this, it would signify the *Calf River*, just as the Boyne means the Cow River.

LIFFEY [Lipí].—The *River Liffey*, according to several writers, rises in the county of Wicklow, and flows through the counties of Kildare and Dublin. In O’Clery’s Book of Conquests the name is written Abáinn Uipe eirip uib neill agur Laiḡne, the River *Life* between Hy Niall and Leinster—that is, between the province or kingdom of

Meath and the province of Leinster. In the Book of Leacan, f. 273, b. a., it gives Rupeach .i. Abanb Uipí, the *Ruireach*, i. e. the River *Liffi*. This also is one of the rivers found by Partholan in Ireland. The name Rupeach is formed from *puipe*, a chief, prince, king, or monarch; and hence the name signifies the chief or noble river—that is, one of the chief rivers of Ireland. As to the name *Uipí* there is not a word in O'Reilly's Dictionary beginning with the syllable *lip*, and we must therefore form the opinion that the meaning of the name is lost, unless we may suppose that *puipeach* is an explanation of it, i. e. a gloss upon the very old name.

[LIFFEY].—I am just now told by a great philologist that this word should be written *luipí* or *luibí*, i. e. *herbage*, which would be very applicable to the rich meadow lands along the River Liffey. Perhaps the medical herbalists gathered their herbs on its banks, and called it the *Herb River*.

M.

MAINE [Manǵ].—The *River Maine*, in Irish Manǵ, Gen. Mainge, flows through the barony of Troughanacmy, county of Kerry, and passes through the bridge of Castlemaine. The word means *deceit*, and the name may signify the *treacherous river*, on account of its sudden floods.

MOURNE [Moðopn].—The *Mourne River* unites with the Finn, and both flow into the Foyle River. In O'Clery's copy of the Book of Conquests the Irish name is Moðhonn a Cip Eogain, the *Modhorn* in Tyrone. In Lecan it is written Monðopn, and in the Annals Moðcipn; and this was the ancient name of the River Foyle, flowing between the present counties of Tyrone and Donegal. In the Book of Conquests it is given as one of the Partholanian rivers. I often heard the word *moðap̃ta* used, as applied to the muddy water of a river in the time of floods, which appellation probably was applicable to the ancient river in Cip Eogain, now Tyrone.

MOY [Muairb].—The *River Moy* is one of those found in Ireland by Partholon on his arrival. It rises at the foot of Knocknashea in the barony of Leney, county of Sligo, and for a long distance divides the counties of Mayo and Sligo, and falls into the Bay of Killala. In Irish the name is written *muairb*, i. e., *sound*; and from the large number of small cataracts on it, the name signifies the loud-sounding river.

N.

NANNY WATER [Cinge].—The *Nanny Water* flows between the baronies of Upper and Lower Duleek, in the county of Meath. The Irish name is Cinge, or an Cinge, the *Ainge*, which has been anglicized *Nanny*, on the same plan with that of *Newry*—that is, by making the *n* of the Article on the primary letter of the name *Nanny*. The Irish name signifies the *Treacherous River*, probably on account of its sudden floods.

NORE [Eoir].—The *Nore*, in Irish Eoir, Gen. Eoirpe, and may signify the *Yew River*. In the Book of Leacan, fol. 286, b.b., it is written Deoir, which is the word for beer, from which it might be inferred that the water of the river was of a beer colour, or brownish. Keating writes it peoir, which would mean the Grassy River.

P.

PHINISK [Fionn uirge].—*Phinisk River*, in the county of Waterford, empties itself into the Blackwater to the north of Drumana, according to Seward. Its name is derived from fionn, clear, and uirge, water. He gives another river called the *Fenix*, situate in the barony of Imokilly, county Cork, which is similarly derived. In the year 1820 I heard it related by several old Irish scholars, then in Dublin, that the Earl of Chesterfield took the idea of erecting the Phoenix pillar, from the Irish name of a spring well in the centre of the Phoenix Park, called Fionn uirge, which was anglicized *Fenix*, similar to the name of the foregoing river.

R.

RAVEL WATER [Fregabail].—The Ravel Water, in the county of Antrim, joins the Dungannon River, and their united waters fall into the Maine Water. The Irish name is Fregabail, which may signify the Branch River, from gabal, a branch. It is one of the Heremonian rivers. According to Lecan, fol. 290, b. a., Mağ Uagabal, or plain of the two branches or forks, cleared by Conmael, son of Eber, lay in Oirgialla.

ROBE [Roöba].—The *River Robe* flows by a very circuitous course in the south of the Co. Mayo, and, discharging itself into Lough Mask, it ceases to be any further a river, as the surplus waters of that lake are conveyed by a subterraneous passage into Lough Corrib. The names of the Irish rivers are almost all of the feminine gender, and it is curious that this should be masculine, or rather of the neuter gender, as baile an Roöba, the town of the Robe River, now Ballinrobe, in the county of Mayo. The meaning of the word is *subdued*, *lost*, or *failed*, signifying the river that was stopped, or failed, in its direct course to the sea.

ROSS [Rop].—The *River Ross*, in the barony of Clare, county of Galway. The word Ross, in Irish rop, means a promontory, as the Rosses on the coast of Donegal. In the interior of the country it signifies a wood or forest, as Rop Comain, the wood of Saint Coman, who lived in the 8th century, and from that wood the present county of Roscommon derives its name.

ROUGHY [Ruachtac].—The *Roughy River*, in the barony of Glenarought, in the county of Kerry, falls into the River Kemare, abainn cinn Mapa, i. e., the river at the head of the sea. The Irish name of the River Roughy is Ruachtac, which means destructive, probably on account of its great mountain floods. In an elegiac poem, composed for Cormac Mac Carthy, of the county of Cork, who died in the year

1704, the poet represents the rivers in Munster as lamenting his death, some of them moaning, roaring, &c., and of this river he says:

Do ríe an Ruaétaé ruaó fa íléibéib
The Ruachtach ran red over the mountains.

RYE-WATER [Ríghé].—The *Rye-Water River*, in the barony of Salt, county of Kildare. It is stated in the Book of Conquests, that among the numerous rivers that began to flow in the reign of Heremon were the naoi Ríghé Laighín, or the Nine Ríghes of Leinster, and evidently the Rye-Water is one of them. It is derived from ríghé, royal, and hence it signifies the *Royal River*.

S.

SHANNON [Sinann].—The *River Shannon*, according to some writers, rises near Manorhamilton, in the county of Leitrim, while others assert that its source is “at the foot of the towering Cuilceach mountain, in the county of Cavan.” The Irish name is Nom. Sinann and Sionann, Gen. Sionna and Sinanne, Dat. Sinann. The derivation of the name, according to the Leabap Óinnpínchoir, or Book of Óinnpéanóir, is as follows: the original text is from the Book of Leacan, fol. 240, a. b., compared with that in Ballymote, fol. 204, a. a.:

Sinann canur po hainmnúífo. nín. Sinann mǵín lóban luchapglain mic lír chíu tairpíníu do deáib co cibraib Chonbla fuil pon muir dia poirpín. Cibra rín po taib cuil ocur imair na hígíu ocur nai cuil epimail ocur anaenuair bpuéur a meap ocur a mblach ocur a noubli ocur anaenuair chuicib forpín cibraib co cochaib rígbpoin do bolcaib corcapda fuirpí co cochaib na brabana in mír conab he ruz na enó chuiptheap ruar ina mbolcaib corcapdaib Co mbpuinóib. un. ppoéa íreí ar ocur ampoab appúchíu. Lúib íapam Sinann dia íaibíu inuair ar ní cheapta ní fuirpí acht poir lúib íapín ppúth coníu lúib mna fele .i. bpi ele ocur pethip inuichup poimpí ocur epaigíu in tobap ocur ró lean co hupu na haba Tappchaen imappaen íappuó co tapla a tapppaen fuirpí ocur po blair bar inuipín cheandcapaib unde Sinann ocur lúib mna fele ocur Tappcain bicuntur.

TRANSLATION.

The Shannon, why so called? Answer. Sinann, the daughter of Lódan of bright renown, the son of [Manannan Mac] Lir of *Tír Tairngíri* [Land of Promise] that went to Conla's Well, which is under the sea, to perfect her acquirements. That is a fountain around which are Muses and Sciences of Knowledge, and there are nine nutty hazel trees there, which set forth their fruit, and their blossoms, and their leaves at the one time; and it is at one time they drop down upon the

well, and [by their fall] they raise a succession of purple bubbles on it [the well]. The salmon then [come forth from the rivers and] chew the fruit, and it is the juice of the nuts that is sent up [in the well] that produces the purple spots on their bellies; and seven streams of knowledge flow forth from it [the fountain, and as the *poem* states Sinann was the seventh stream], and they [the salmon] return back again [to the rivers]. Sinann then went to seek the [fruit of] knowledge, for she was not deficient in any thing else but perfect knowledge [i. e., science]; and the stream [of knowledge] ran before her, and the well ebbed, and she followed [the stream] to the brink of the River *Tarrchaen* [which means the place where she was upset by the confluence of the two streams]. When she had come there, her *Tarr Faen* [i. e. belly uppermost or upsetting] came upon her, and she tasted death in the confluence, and hence *Sinann*, and *Linn Mna Fele*, and *Tarrchain dicuntur*."

Perhaps a more simple derivation of the Sinann may be acceptable—viz., from *Sin*, old, and *abainn*, river—the *Old River*.

SKIRT [*Scirtac*].—In the reign of *Siopna Mac Oen*, A. M. 4169, the eruption of the three following rivers happened:—the *Scirtac*, or Skirt, in Leinster, which may signify the *Slippery*, i. e. *Slimy River*; the *Ooailt*, compounded of *oo*, a negative or intensive particle, and *alc*, a precipice or high bank, in *Crioic Roip*, in the south of the county of Monaghan, and the *Nich* in the county of Louth, now the River of Ardee. See Dee River.

SLAINE [*Slaine*].—The *River Slaine* is a small stream which falls into the Boyne, near Slane, on the north side of the river. It is stated that it first began to flow A. M. 4169, in the reign of *Siopna paoglae*, or *Siorna* the long-lived; and is, therefore, one of our oldest rivers. The name signifies the Healthy River, derived from *plan*, healthy.

SLIGO [*Sligeach*].—*Sligeach* is the name of the River Sligo, and signifies the Shelly River, from *plige*, a shell. It is stated that this is one of the rivers found by Partholan on his arrival in this country, about 300 years after the Flood. It flows out of *Loe Gile*, or the Lake of Gile, who was the daughter of *Manannán Mac Lir*, the great Irish navigator, and it falls into the Bay of Sligo.

SRUBH-BRAIN [*Srub bpairn*] is the name of a river in the west of Kerry. It is mentioned in the Book of Conquests, in the *Dinnseanchus*, and in Keating's History of Ireland, and to the following effect:—The great champion Cuchullin, about the beginning of the first century, happening to be on the peaks of Boirche, near the source of the River Bann, he saw a great flight of black birds coming on the sea to the north; and on their landing upon the shore, he pursues them, and by a feat called *cait béim* killed one of them with his sling in every district he passed through, until the last great *bpairn* fell in the west of Kerry. And the *Dinnseanchus* states that a stream of blood flowed from this monster bird, in which Cuchullin washed his hands, and then named the stream *Srub bpairn*, which signifies the *Raven River*. On his return from the west, he carried off Blathnaid from *Cathair Connaoi*,

who made a sign to him by pouring milk into a stream, which after that was called *πιονנגλαίπε*, i. e. the *White Stream*, anglicized *Finglas*.

SUCK [*Suc*].—The *River Suck*, in Irish *Suc*, which makes *Suca* in the gen. singular and nom. plural; for we are informed that there were three *Suca*, which sprang up between the lands of Galway and Roscommon in the time of Eremon. The *Three Sucs* are the one which bears the name at present with its two tributaries—the *Sheffin* and the *River of Clonbrock*, in the county of Galway, and in their united form they fall into the *Shannon* at *Shannon Bridge*. In a MS. in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, C. 28, p. 1, the word *Succat*, which is evidently from the same root with *Suc* or *Suca*, is explained by a gloss thus:—*Succat* .i. *επευν* *no* *ρογλαίπε*, *succat*, i. e. powerful or quick in motion. The word *επευν*, powerful or forcible, would be applicable to this river with its impetuous and swift-flowing current.

SUIR [*Suir*].—The *Suir*, the *Nore*, and the *Barrow*. The *Suir*, in Irish *Suir*, Gen. *puirpe*, is one of the rivers that began to flow in the reign of *Irial*, son of *Eremon*, A. M. 3520. The name of this river means a *sister*; and probably from this the three rivers here given have been called by several writers *The Three Sisters*. This river rises in the *Devil's Bit Mountain*, and unites with the *Barrow* at *Comap na ceiri nuirce*, or the *Meeting of the Three Waters*, about a mile below *Waterford*.

SWILLY [*Suilleach*].—The *River Swilly* falls into *Lough Swilly* at *Letterkenny*, in the county of *Donegal*. In the *Annals* the name of this river is written *Abann Suileach*, which signifies the *Willow River*, from *puil*, the willow or sally tree, and is the name of the letter *S* in the Irish alphabet. In the parish of *Gartan*, and not far from this river, is a lake called *Loch Beatac*, which means the *Birch Lake*.

T.

TORAGH [*Tortac*].—The *River Toragh*, in Irish *Tortac*, which unites with the *River Blackwater* near *Youghal*, signifies the fruitful or productive river, probably from the large quantity of fish found in its waters.

U.

UINSION [*Uinnion*].—In the time of *Eremon* the *Three Uinnions*, or *Uinions*, began to flow in the present barony of *Tirerroll*, in the county of *Sligo*. The word *uinnion* is the name of the *Ash tree*, which in modern Irish is written *puinnion* and *puinnpeóg*, and no doubt but those rivers were named from the *Ash tree* woods which grew along their banks. These rivers, it is said, are not now traceable, except one of them be the river which runs along the *Union Wood*, in Irish *Coill na h-Ungion*, to the east of *Collooney*, in which the *Ash* naturally grows in abundance. There is a river called the *River Uinnision* in the barony of *Fermoy*, county of *Cork*, and I am informed by Mr. Long that the *Ash* grows abundantly in the valley along its banks as an indigenous tree.

URRIN [Iubap Abainn].—*Urrin*, a river in the barony of Scarawalsh, in the Co. Wexford. The name is derived from Iubap (the Yew) and abainn (river). The town of Newry derives its name from a large yew tree, which stood at the head of the strand there in the time of St. Patrick, and was called Iubap cinn Cpaḡa, i. e. the Yew at the head of the strand. At a later time it was simply called Cn Iubap (the Yew), and in anglicizing it the n of the article became the primary letter of the name—thus, *N-Ewry*, and it has been called by several writers *The Newry*. The word Iubap (a Yew tree), has been derived by an old glossographer from e6 (*semper*), and bapp (a top), signifying the ever-green top. The former word e6 has been also used to denote the Yew tree, and hence Maḡ-e6 (the Plain of the Yews), from which the county of Mayo has got its name.

XLIX.—ON AN ANCIENT CUP AND BROOCHES, FOUND NEAR ARDAGH, IN THE COUNTY OF LIMERICK. By the Right Hon. the EARL OF DUNRAVEN.

[Abstract.]

[Read February 22, 1869.]

THE Earl of Dunraven read a paper on a very ancient and remarkable cup, and several brooches, discovered in September, 1868, in a rath close to the village of Ardagh, in the county of Limerick. They were found by a man digging potatoes within the rath. The cup is seven inches in height, and nine and a half inches in diameter; it is composed of an alloy of silver, and ornamented with gold work of interlaced and various other designs of the highest period of Celtic art, and also with enamels of beautiful character and finish. Round the bowl was an inscription, composed of the names of the twelve Apostles. The form of the letters is that found only in the earliest Irish MSS.—for example, the Book of Durrow, *sixth century*, the Book of Kells, the Book of Dimma, the Durham Book, &c. &c., all prior to the 9th century. There can be little doubt that this cup was a chalice. Two-handled chalices were in use before the 11th or 12th century. They were of two kinds—those which were used for the Communion of the minor clergy and the laity, and those which were only employed for ornament, being hung between the pillars of churches or before the altar. Several examples of both kinds are mentioned in the paper. With respect to the age of this precious relic of early Irish art, judging by the inscription, it would appear to be prior to the 9th century; but the workmanship is of the highest period of that art, which, according to Dr. Petrie, culminated about the 11th century. The 10th century may, therefore, be taken as the probable period in which this most beautiful cup was executed.

Within the chalice were found a small cup, a chalice of bronze, and four brooches. The cup is five and a half inches in diameter, and is